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Warning to News Media

In recent weeks, William J. Casey, the Director of Central Intelligence, has warned the news media that they could be prosecuted for publishing classified information. He has asked the Justice Department to look into a report broadcast by NBC News.

CURBS ON SECRETS PLANNED BY AIDES

Top Administration Officials Agree on Need for Controls to Limit Disclosures

By GERALD M. BOYD

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 2 — Senior Reagan Administration officials agreed today on a need to increase internal curbs to control the unauthorized disclosure of classified materials, but disagreed on what form such restrictions should take, Administration sources said today.

The sources, who asked not to be identified, said that Donald T. Regan, the White House chief of staff, was among those who questioned recommendations submitted by Vice Adm. John M. Poindexter, President Reagan's national security adviser, as the basis for a new Administration policy on more restrictive measures to end leaks.

Mr. Reagan presided over an hour-long White House meeting of his top foreign policy and intelligence advisers, the National Security Planning Group. One White House source said the private session was a "full discussion" in which each senior official presented his views on what steps should be taken.

Proposals by Poindexter

The sources said that Admiral Poindexter began the meeting by making a presentation that included a broad set of proposals developed by a working group of middle-level Administration intelligence officials.

Officials at the White House and elsewhere in the Administration have said previously that the proposals included limiting the number of people with access to classified information, reducing the amount of information that is classified, increasing the use of polygraph tests in the investigation of unauthorized disclosures and creating a new unit within the Federal Bureau of Investigation to examine unauthorized disclosures.

The sources said today that there was general agreement among the senior officials present on the need for further curbs within the Administration as a form of additional "discipline."

There was also general agreement, the sources said, that the news media have acted irresponsibly in disclosing information damaging to the national security.

One White House official said that after the meeting Mr. Reagan retired into the Oval Office with several advisers, raising the possibility that a final decision might have come at that point. Frequently, the President reserves judgment in such situations until he can consider the matter with a few key advisers.

The sources said that Mr. Reagan's concerns involved how to best curb unauthorized disclosures. He and the other senior officials participating made what one source called "forceful" presentations of their views.

At the senior White House staff meeting this morning, Mr. Poindexter had described the planning group's meeting as one that would deal with the subject of "authorized" and "unauthorized" disclosures. However, one Administration official said later that no need existed for the senior officials to discuss disclosures that were sanctioned. Such disclosures are made by officials in order to build support for the Administration's foreign policy objectives.

Although the sources would not describe the other disagreements, Secretary of State George P. Shultz has previously protested a directive requiring the use of polygraph tests to investigate unauthorized disclosures. The directive, which Mr. Reagan had signed, was revised to end mandatory testing.

The meeting was the most recent manifestation of Administration concern over unauthorized disclosures, which White House officials have said has increased in recent months. In particular, Administration officials have expressed concern over intelligence disclosures connected with Libya and reports about a classified intelligence operation that surfaced in connection with the trial of Ronald W. Pelton, a former National Security Agency employee who is accused of spying for the Soviet Union.